

STAT

CBS EVENING NEWS  
25 April 1983EL SALVADOR/  
CONGRESSMEN

RATHER: As Bruce Morton reports tonight from El Salvador, some of those to whom Mr. Reagan will be appealing went to take a look for themselves.

MORTON: Congressmen whizzed in and out of here today in a kind of legislative now you see him, now you don't. First Clarence Long of Maryland, chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee which will vote tomorrow on whether to let President Reagan shift \$60 million in military aid from other countries to El Salvador. El Salvador did two things long wanted--released 10 political prisoners, though some reports say they jailed others and promised Red Cross prison inspections, and the Reagan administration sounds encouraging about another Long suggestion, a special negotiator to try to arrange a peace here. In return Long sounded like a man who would vote for the aid. CLARENCE LONG (D-Md.): And it's gonna be a very difficult project, but it might work. That's my feeling, and it's certainly worth a try.

MORTON: No sooner did Long fly out than another group, members of the House Intelligence Committee, flew in. They are investigating whether the Reagan administration is obeying a law which bars spending money to try to overthrow the government of Nicaragua. This was their third stop after Nicaragua and Honduras, and so far they said they are undecided about whether the administration is within the law. REP. NORMAN MINETA (D-Calif.): That's a conclusion that I just don't want to make a statement on right now, but that's basically what I'm here for.

MORTON: What worries El Salvador's government is the vote tomorrow on military aid for the war here. Any congressional action on money for the undercover war in Nicaragua seems much further off. Bruce Morton, CBS News, San Salvador.